

SOUTH SOUND – DESCHUTES WINTER STEELHEAD

STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS	2002 STATUS
Healthy	Not Rated

Steelhead historically did not have access to the Deschutes River basin until a fish ladder was installed at Tumwater Falls in 1954. Chambers Creek Hatchery winter steelhead have regularly been released into the Deschutes River to support fishery opportunities. There has never been any intent to establish a wild, naturally spawning winter steelhead population through these releases. In fact, this hatchery stock has been selected for fishery enhancement because of its early return and spawning timing, which differentiate it from native winter steelhead stocks. These characteristics are not well suited to natural spawning conditions in the Deschutes, and these fish are not expected to exhibit significant natural production. Therefore, Deschutes winter steelhead are **Not Rated** in 2002.

STOCK DEFINITION

We do not regard winter steelhead spawning in the Deschutes as being a distinct stock in the same sense that the term is used elsewhere in this inventory.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Precise spawning locations are not known, but spawning is presumed to take place throughout the Deschutes basin and in Percival Creek.

SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from early February through mid-March.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: No genetic analysis has been done on Deschutes winter steelhead.

STOCK ORIGIN

Winter steelhead spawning in the Deschutes are of Chambers Creek Hatchery origin.